

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 15990 062353Z

20

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

----- 113312

R 062345Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6345

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 15990

EXDIS

KUWAIT PASS DOHA

E.O.11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PBOR, PINT, KU, IZ, UK

SUBJECT: BRITISH DOUBT KUWAIT-IRAQI TENSIONS

REF: KUWAIT 4869, 5177, 5212, 5227

1. WHEN WE RAISED THIS QUESTION ON DECEMBER 5 WITH FCO IRAQ AND KUWAIT DESK OFFICERS THEY WERE AT A LOSS TO COMMENT. THEY HAVE HAD NO REPORTS INDICATING ANYTHING IMPORTANT HAS BEEN HAPPENING ON IRAQ-KUWAITI BORDER (IN SPITE OF BRITISH EMBOFF'S REPORT MENTIONED KUWAIT 4869 OF NOVEMBER 14).

2. FCO UNDERSTANDING IS THAT ALTHOUGH IRAQIS PERMITTED UNARMED KUWAITI POLICE TO PASS THROUGH THEIR LINES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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REOCCUPY SAMETA BORDER POST AFTER 1973 INCIDENT, IRAQIS

KEPT THEIR TROOPS IN PLACE IN AREA AROUND THAT POST.
THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT CHANGE IN THAT
SITUATION -- THOUGH THEY AGREE THAT AIRING OF THE SITUA-
TION IN THE KUWAITI PRESS COULD RAISE LEVEL OF TENSION.

3. BRITISH DOUBT IRAQIS WOULD WANT TO MAKE NEW TROUBLE
AT TIME THEIR ARMY FULLY OCCUPIED WITH KURDS. KUWAITIS
ON THEIR SIDE HAVE BEEN FRIENDLY DURING IRAQI NAVAL VISIT
MENTIONED KUWAIT 5227 AND IN AGREEING TO LET IRAQIS USE
OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN DELAYED DUE TO CONGESTION IN BASRA
PORT.

SPIERS

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Authority: izenbei0
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